



Exploring Student Opinions About Sexual Harassment Facts and Myths

Grades: 9-10
Time: 1 class period
Subjects: All Subjects and Classes

Description:

This is a student-centered questionnaire exploring student opinion and knowledge about sexual harassment. Students first fill out the questionnaire, then discuss their opinions in small groups. The class comes back as a large group with the teacher facilitating the discussion, using each statement of the questionnaire as a focus.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Analyze personal attitudes concerning issues of sexual harassment.
- Improve logical reasoning skill to support opinions.
- Educate students about the facts and myths of sexual harassment.
- Listen to and consider all points of view.
- Develop strategies for fighting sexual harassment in personal, every day context.

Materials:

1. "Questionnaire" (attached).

Procedure:

Note: Remind students to fill out the questionnaire quietly and without comments so that honest answers are not inhibited. Also tell students that their answers will be shared aloud.

1. Have students fill out questionnaire.
2. Put students into small groups of three or four to discuss their responses.
3. The following questions should be considered in small groups for further discussion as a class:
 - In what ways do your opinions differ? How are they the same?
 - In what ways did you change your opinion or attitude?
 - How were you convinced to change your opinion or attitude?
 - What surprised you?
4. Once small groups have met, bring the class back together and read through the questionnaire statement by statement in order to stimulate a greater discussion. Allow the students to come to their own conclusions by constantly questioning the reasons for their beliefs.
5. Ask students to respond to this assignment in a writing exercise. What did students learn about sexual harassment, their peers, and the facts? What, if anything, has changed their opinions?

Evaluation:

Evaluate students by moving around the classroom and observing their listening and speaking efforts in small groups.

Evaluate students by reading their written responses to the exercise. It can be assessed in terms of effort, content, and style.

Adapted from *Flirting or Hurting* by Nan Stein and Lisa Sjoström.

Sexual Harassment Questionnaire

Directions: Read the following statements and circle the response that best supports your opinion.

- 1. Teachers and educational staff ignore sexual harassment and allow it to go on in school.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 2. Friends allow sexual harassment to happen to their friends even though they dislike it.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 3. Girls sexually harass girls, and boys sexually harass boys.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 4. Boys cannot be sexually harassed.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 5. Girls who dress in sexy clothing are asking for attention and even to be harassed.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 6. Girls should be able to dress any way they want without fear of being looked upon as a sexual object.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 7. Sexual harassment does not happen at home.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 8. Women sexually harass men and get away with it easier than men sexually harassing women.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 9. Flirting is sexual harassment.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 10. Younger children are not capable of sexual harassment.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

- 11. A witness to sexual harassment should report it, no matter what.**

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Sexual Harassment Questionnaire (continued)

12. Offensive graffiti on the bathroom wall is not sexual harassment.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

13. Little children as young as five or six years old can be harassers.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

14. A student who files an official complaint against a harasser should expect to be taunted for being a tattletale.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

15. Sexual harassment can be prevented.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

16. In most cases of sexual harassment, males harass females.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

17. All harassment is intentional.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

18. Harassment can be flattering

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

19. Sexual harassment is a fact of life.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

20. Reporting sexual harassment gets positive results.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree